

GOLD DUST

The Best Washing Powder.

Woman's Best Friend, Dirt's Worst Enemy.

FREE RURAL MAILS.

EXTENSION OF DELIVERY SYSTEM URGED BY POSTAL AUTHORITIES.

Success of the Experimental Routes Shown in First Assistant Postmaster General Health's Report—Congress Asked to Provide for Enlarging the Service.

[Special Correspondence.]

WASHINGTON, Dec. 25.—No subject of legislation with which the Fifty-sixth congress will have to do is likely to attract more general public interest than that affecting the administration of the postoffice department.

There are three matters connected with the postal department which are likely to be the subjects of congressional deliberation during this session.



RURAL CARRIER DELIVERING MAIL IN KERO WEATHER.

These are the further extension and perfection of the rural free delivery service, the establishment of a parcel post system and the correction of abuses in the rates on second class matter.

The success which has thus far attended the experiments in rural free delivery fully warrants the further extension of the service. The annual report of First Assistant Postmaster General Perry S. Heath, who has direction over this branch of the postal service, strongly urges such a policy, and there is a general feeling among members both of the house and the

senate that his recommendations are wise and timely, and they will not doubt receive favorable consideration.

As the benefits of the rural free delivery system are made apparent the demands for the extension of the service are increased. From every section of the country come requests for the establishment of such routes. There is no question but that the system greatly aids in the development of the sections where it is put in operation. It enhances the value of farm lands and causes a general improvement of the construction and maintenance of good roads have been made prerequisites to the establishment of a free delivery route. In one county in Indiana a special agent reports that the farmers spent over \$5,000 to grade and gravel a road to obtain rural free delivery. In the communities where it has been tried free delivery is considered the greatest boon that the government could confer upon them.

The lion's share of the experimental service has fallen to the lot of Ohio, though Indiana and Pennsylvania come in for a considerable portion of it. The service has, however, been quite widely diversified throughout the country. Even in so remote a section as Arizona the rural free delivery has been put in successful operation. It is interesting to note that in the last fiscal year two Arizona carriers delivered and collected nearly 100,000 pieces of mail matter, riding only six days a week. This is not a bad piece of work for a territory not yet admitted to the Union.

The experimental stage of rural free delivery has probably reached its highest development in Carroll county, Md., where, with the Westminster postoffice as a starting point, a specially constructed postal wagon, having nearly all the accommodations of a stationary postoffice, makes a daily circuit of 30 miles and does the business of eight fourth class postoffices and four star route carriers at a net saving to the government of \$225 a year.

The Maryland postal wagon is a vehicle eight feet long, with sliding doors in the center, and is handsomely painted in blue, on each side being the letters in gold: "U. S. Postal Wagon." Its interior is fitted up with counters, drawers and letter boxes—16 large letter boxes in front and 32 behind, all zinc lined. It carries a driver and postal clerk, the latter of whom is authorized to receive, cancel, collect and deliver all mails, to receipt for applications for money orders and registered letters and, in short, to perform all the functions of a regular postmaster. The traveling postoffice is drawn by two stout horses, and since its establishment last spring has made its daily circuit of 30 miles in all sorts of weather, collecting mail from 60 United States letter boxes and delivering to all the houses on the route.

Three additional postal wagons of similar but somewhat improved build

have been ordered and will be put in operation by the first of the new year. The whole of the county of Carroll will then be covered from one central point by traveling postoffices, and 50 minor offices and 8 or 10 star routes will be discontinued, at a saving of great cost to the government and with a most decided improvement in the service rendered to the people.

During the present session members of congress will be asked to inspect the rural free delivery service in Maryland when it is in full operation, and as the distance from Washington is not great no doubt many senators and representatives, particularly among those who are desirous of getting a similar service for their constituents, will visit Carroll county. Upon the demonstration of the possibilities of rural free delivery in this section congress will doubtless decide how much it will appropriate for the extension of the service during the next fiscal year. Neither the first assistant nor the postmaster general has named any specific amount for this purpose in the estimates for the postal appropriations. That is left wholly to congress, and doubtless that body, appreciating its benefits to the country, will give the matter generous consideration. It is believed that at least \$1,000,000 will be voted for this purpose. This year's appropriation was \$300,000.

One of the matters of detail in connection with the establishment of rural free delivery to which the postal department has found it necessary to give much serious attention is the insecurity and improper character of the mail boxes put up along the experimental routes. "In the early days of the service," says the first assistant postmaster general, "when neither congress nor the postoffice department, as then organized, held out any hope that rural free delivery would prove more than a transitory experiment, extreme carelessness was manifested as to the kind of receptacles put up as rural free delivery boxes. Tomato cans, cigar boxes, drainage pipes, and even boxes and even sections of discarded stoves were used as mail boxes and were frequently placed in hedge-rows or other inconvenient spots, out of reach of the carrier.

The department has now entered upon a systematic effort to correct this condition, and a recommendation is made that the government provide uniform boxes and maintain them, charging a moderate rental. The department has devised a lock box of iron with two compartments, one for the reception of mail, the other for its delivery, and with an automatic contrivance which raises a red or a white flag, to indicate when there was mail to be collected or when there has been mail delivered.

All sorts of conveyances are employed in the various sections where the system has been put in operation for the delivery and collection of the mails, ranging all the way from the elaborate postoffice on wheels used in Maryland to the loping broncho, which the Arizona carrier bestrides. Many of the carriers make their rounds on foot, with mail pouch swung over their shoulders. The personal faithfulness of these servants of the people is declared to be beyond praise by the officers of the postal department. Even in the fierce blizzards of last winter the occasions were extremely rare when the carriers failed to cover their routes and that, too, in cases where those routes led them over the roughest mountain paths and bleakest prairie roads. On two routes there are girl carriers, and they are as faithful as the men and just as efficient. It is noted that instances where rural carriers are reported for inefficiency and misconduct are extremely rare. They are under \$300 bonds, and the government has not yet been required to call upon a single bondsman to make good any loss.

Another matter in connection with the postoffice department which is likely to receive congressional consideration is the proposition to establish a parcel post system similar to that in operation in Germany. This government some time ago entered into convention with the German government for an international parcel post service, which seems to be working very satisfactorily. This has given rise to the notion that we could just as well



"So you've set up a hired girl?" said farmer Muchland to his son.

"Your mother never had a hired girl. She worked early and late, and raised a family. Hired girl indeed! Look at your mother, sir."

"It's just looking at mother," said the son, "made me resolve that my children should never look like her, worn out in her prime."

In the partnership of marriage women give twice as much as men. They give equal work, and they give themselves, their very life. Children come. No chance for rest, work must go on. Inflammation, ulceration, debilitating drains and female weakness, undermine the health and shock the nervous system. In a few years the woman is worn out.

Women who have used Dr. Pierce's Favorite Prescription say that they can do their own work and keep their strength and good looks. It cures inflammation, ulceration, female weakness and unhealthy drains.

Sick women are invited to consult Dr. Pierce by letter, free of charge. "About two years ago my health became very poor from female weakness and troubles peculiar to my sex. In fact I was so weak and feeble that I was able to do but little work," writes Mrs. J. M. Goss, of Ballymore, Calumet Co., Wis. "I took two bottles of the Favorite Prescription and I feel like a new woman. I am well and able to do all my work."

The People's Common Sense Medical Adviser, sent free on receipt of stamps to delay expense of mailing only. Address Dr. R. V. Pierce, Buffalo, N. Y.

LIGHTS FOR BIRDS' NESTS.

Some Curious Habits Practiced in the World of Songbirds.

Many birds suspend their nests from the branches of trees, one of the most curious nests of that kind being that of the bay bird of India. It is hung from the branch, with its opening at the bottom, and hangs like an inverted bottle, secure from the approach of tree snakes and other reptiles.

The most curious thing about the bay bird is that it is said to light up its nest by sticking directly on its sides with clay or soft mud. There seems to be little doubt of the fact.

Dr. Buchanan says: "At night each of the habitations is lighted up by a fiery stick in the top with a piece of clay. The nest consists of two rooms. Sometimes there are three or four fires, and their blaze in the little cells, or oozes the eyes of the birds, which often destroy the young of these birds."

Perhaps other animals are scared off by the bay bird's electric light, since a writer in Nature records this curious observation: "I have been informed on safe authority that the Indian bird-bird protects his nest at night by sticking several of these glow beetles around the entrance by means of clay, and only a few eyes watching three at a time after the bird has retired. When a glow fly lodged very close to them, the rats immediately scampered off."—Our Dumb Animals.

BEECHAM'S PILLS

Cure Sour Stomach, Constipation, etc.

10 cents and 25 cents, at drug stores.

DR. MARTEL'S TONIC

Relief for Women

French Female Pills

Prepared by thousands of satisfied ladies as a reliable and effective remedy for all ailments of the female system.

French Bros. Co., 801 E. 3rd St., New York City

Chicago-Union Pacific & North-Western Line

THE OVERLAND LIMITED leaves Chicago 6:30 p. m. daily, arrives San Francisco 5:15 afternoon of third day and Los Angeles early next morning. No change of cars; all meals in Dining Cars. Buffet Smoking and Library Cars with barbers. The best everything. Express Sleepers every day and personally conducted excursions every Thursday. Illustrated book free. Call on any agent or address Chicago & North-Western Ry.

447 Broadway, New York City. 125 W. 4th St., Cleveland. 207 Smith St., Pittsburgh. 509 Washington St., Boston. 127 The Arcade, Cincinnati. 221 Main St., Buffalo. 77 Commerce Martine, Detroit.

Shadow and Light

Blend most softly and play most effectively over a festive scene when thrown by waxen candles.

The light that heightens beauty's charm, that gives the finished touch to the drawing room or dining room, is the mellow glow of

BANQUET WAX CANDLES

Sold in all colors and shades to harmonize with any interior hangings or decorations.

Manufactured by STANDARD OIL CO. For sale everywhere.

PREACHING PIT.

The Old Cornwall Mine Shaft Where Wesley and Whitefield Held Revival.

Scattered throughout the length and breadth of Cornwall are innumerable disused mine shafts, as might be expected in a country whose mining industry has existed for considerably over 20 centuries. When the lodes of tin and copper gave out, or became too poor to pay for the working, the mines were abandoned, leaving either innumerable yawning chasms or shafts hundreds of fathoms deep to scar the face of the country. In time the woodwork which had been placed as a lining to the shafts to support the sides caved in and fell into the shaft and so formed a pit. In many cases the "run-in," as this caving-in is termed, formed a perfectly circular pit in the shape of an inverted truncated cone, sometimes measuring over a hundred feet in diameter at the surface and from 30 to 40 feet in its greatest depth. When the ground was more "rubby" the pit would be wider and deeper. When the great religious revival under the preaching of Wesley and Whitefield took place, Cornwall was one of the counties in which the movement took deep root. Chapels sprang up very quickly; but until these were built the revivalists looked about for places in which they might worship without molestation. Some genius saw great possibilities in these "run-in" mine shafts, and so the "preaching pit" became an accomplished fact. The bottoms of the pits were leveled, and on the sloping side rude seats were formed by cutting the earth into tiers of steps and covering them with straw. A high bank was raised at one side of the preacher and an opening was cut so as to give easy access to the pit. In some cases a railing was erected around the outer edge, having an entrance gate.

In these rude, improvised amphitheaters, eminently suited to the rough, emotional nature of the Cornish miner, revival services were held, and hundreds of converts were "brought in," as the Cornishman terms it. With nothing but the blue sky above and the green grass below, the pit crowded tier above tier with solemn-faced religionists, listening with bated breath to the denunciation of the sinner and the exhortation to flee from wrath eternal; the young, dark-haired, blue-eyed lads and maidens sitting hand in hand as in the custom with Cornish lovers, and their elders, nodding and shaking their heads as they agreed or disagreed with the remarks of the preacher, occasionally emitting a groan or an "Amen;" while over all, the gathering gloom completes the solemnity of the scene, and makes it a fit subject for the brush of a Rembrandt. Then, when the hymn, rolling from a thousand throats and echoed from the pit sides, had been sung, followed by the prayer, in which the entire spirit of the supplicant was poured forth with violent gesticulations and contortions of body, to the accompaniment of "Amen," groans, and "Hallelujahs" of the believers, mingled with cries and shrieks from the "unsaved," it would seem as if the spirit of the ancient Druids had survived through the centuries in this remnant of Britain's ancient people.

These "preaching pits" are all situated in West Cornwall. That at Gwennap, near Redruth, is the largest and best known. It is 47 yards in diameter, and will accommodate 10,000 people. In Wesley's time it was very much larger. Others are situated at Newlyn East, near Newquay, and at Indian Queen's, near Truro. The pits are not now regularly used as places of worship; but on bank holidays special services are held in them and they are used also on the occasion of a Sunday school treat. At such times they are well worth visiting.—Chambers' Journal.

FLAVOR INJURED AT SEA.

Consequently Russian Epicures Have Their Supply of Tea Brought Overland.

Russian tea traders have received news that the great caravans will shortly start on their long journey across Siberia. Within recent years much of the tea consumed in Russia has made the sea voyage from Chinese ports to Odessa on the Black sea, but Russians say that tea transported by sea loses much in flavor and quality. In consequence of this the largest tea merchants continue to receive the bulk of their stock by the overland route.

Early in January the caravans arrive in Tomsk. Between the 1st and the 25th of the month 10,000 sledges full of tea are expected, each sledge containing five packages of about 130 pounds. The tea is not packed in cases, but in stiffened ox hides. Five sledges are tied together and drawn by one horse. The last sledge of each group contains hay and barley, which the horse of the next group quietly munches as he travels. In consequence of this arrangement the caravans lose no time. The first horse only, who does not feed as he walks, is changed from time to time. The horses are changed in the villages along the road, but as villages are rarely met it often happens that the horses collapse from overfatigue.

The leaders of the caravan, usually Kirghiz, sleep in the sledges, although the thermometer is often 40 degrees below freezing point. From the Chinese tea-growing districts to Tomsk is a year's journey by caravan.—N. Y. World.

Vast Weld of an Artesian Well.

On the Queensland, New South Wales, boundary line, on the edge of the Australian desert, an artesian well has struck a yield of water of 4,000,000 gallons a day.—Chicago Chronicle.

Cataract Cannot be Cured

with LOCAL APPLICATIONS, as they cannot reach the seat of the disease. Cataract is a blood or constitutional disease, and in order to cure it you must take internal remedies. Hall's Cataract Cure is taken internally and acts directly on the blood and mucous surfaces. Hall's Cataract Cure is not a quick medicine. It is prescribed by one of the best physicians in this country for years, and is a regular prescription. It is composed of the best tonics known, combined with the best blood purifiers, acting directly on the various sources. A perfect combination of the two ingredients is what produces such wonderful results in curing Cataract. For testimonials, see F. J. CHENEY & CO., Props., Toledo, O. Hall's Family Pills are the best.

FOR SALE.

FOR SALE OR EXCHANGE—Seven acre truck farm near Akron, with good house.

Five lots, North Hill, at \$125 each. If sold quick.

New 8 room house near payment and street cars, a bargain at \$1,500.

See 4 room house, York st., nearly new, for \$1,000.

Money to loan at lowest rates of interest. C. H. JOYCE, Tel. 908.

For Sale on Easy Terms.

The most elegant suburban home in Summit county, large house of 2 rooms, hard wood finish, good cellar, heater, good lawn, 10 acres, 100 ft. front, 100 ft. deep. This property is beyond question the finest property on the market. Will sell for less than cost of building. A bargain! THOS. L. CHILDS, Attorney, Walsh Block.

I have \$1,000 to loan on improved property at 6 per cent.

E. M. Young, Room No. 21, Akron Savings Block.

MONEY TO LOAN.

TO LOAN \$5,000 in sums to suit borrower. J. J. BAKER, 125 South Howard. Tel. 1947.

FROM \$100 to \$10,000 to loan at 6 per cent. Welsh & Sawyer, Attorneys, Doyle Block. Tel. 250-255.

MONEY TO LOAN—From \$500 and up—on household goods or any chattel security and allow the goods to remain in your possession. Can pay cash in monthly installments. Room 10, Arcade block. Office hours, 9:30 to 11:30 a. m., 1:30 to 5 p. m. L. C. MILLER & J. W. TEL. 2111.

WANTED.

WANTED—Agents in every county to handle "Coin or Money" sold exclusively through agents. For further information, address Coin Publishing Company, Studio Bldg., corner State and Ohio sts., Chicago, Ill. Tel. 200 11.

EXPERIENCED, HIGH GRADE solicitors, best of references, our agents make from \$100 to \$400 per week. A. J. Clendenen, Hotel Akron, Ohio, Friday and Saturday, Dec. 28, 1900, hours 9 a. m. to 5 p. m. The Belmont, N.Y. Co. Tel. 217.

WANTED.

WANTED—A girl for general house work. Mrs. A. Bonstedt, 217 N. Arlington street. Tel. 216-218.

NOTICE.

I will buy all the old horses and mares that you do not want to keep over winter. R. C. Timmerman, 216 Furnace st., Akron, O. Tel. 220.

FOUND.

FOUND—A black ulster. Owner can have same by calling at 128 Grant st. and paying for this advertisement. Tel. 212-214.

W. F. COLEMAN

Justice of the Peace and Notary.

Houses on monthly payments, choice lots on Wooster av. will be sold at a sacrifice. Also greenhouse equipment cheap. A 40 horse-power boiler, almost new. I have the most extensive stock of goods. Capital \$100,000. We solicit the most obstinate cases. We have cured the worst cases in 10 to 15 days. 100-page Book Free.

FOR SALE

If you want a first-class driving horse, finely matched coach or carriage team, call at Steiner's Stock Barn, No. 1350 South Main st. Nothing but first-class horses kept in stock.

N. R. STEINER, Prop., Tel. 1784.

John Q. Martin, Mgr. Tel. 1800.

A CHRISTMAS PRESENT

Which will be better and longer appreciated than any other gift.

An Aetna Life, Endowment or Accident Policy.

A thoughtful token of your best affection. FRANK O. NEWCOMB, District Agent, Everett building; tel. 922.

ASK YOUR GROCER ABOUT

CHAMPION FLOUR!

WADSWORTH MILLING CO.

WANTED TO LOAN

\$1,000 to \$5,000 at 6 per cent for term of years if security is gilt edge. Inquire at once.

Hale & Costes

Everett block. Tel. 1623

STROBEL BROS.

Steam Laundry

New machinery, new location. We guarantee our work. High gloss or domestic finish. Phone 1432

Nos. 132-137 North Howard st.

CASPAR ZINTEL

Manufacturer of all kinds of brushes. Orders promptly attended to.

157 S. MAIN ST. AKRON, O.

Ritchie Coal Co.

Has a good house for rent. Also coal to sell. We are not in the combine.

110 W. Market St.

Family Washings

Our specialty. Special rates. We wash clean, good finish, don't ruin fabrics. Will call for and deliver goods. One trial is all we ask.

AMERICAN LAUNDRY

Phone 729 405 East Exchange st. E. J. Reed, Props.

J. K. WILLIAMS

Machine Shop

General Machine Work of All Kinds

Clay Working Machinery for Stoneware a Specialty.

Growers of Wine

Catawba Parc, Catawba A. Port, Sweet, Ives Seedling...

Always on hand. All orders promptly filled. Special attention given to mail orders.

SCHAEDEL & BHEIM, Kelly's Island, O.

Christmas and New Year Holiday Excursions.

Very low rates to all C. & C. and Penn. lines stations Dec. 28, 29, 30, and Jan. 1 and Jan. 2. Tickets good returning until Jan. 2 inclusive.

Christmas and New Year Holiday Excursions.

Christmas—Very Low Rates Via the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad.

On Dec. 23, 24, 25, 30 and 31, 1899, and Jan. 1, 1900, the Baltimore and Ohio railroad will sell excursion tickets between all stations west of Pittsburgh at one and one-third fare for the round trip; going journey to be commenced on date of sale. Return limit, leaving destination to and including Jan. 2, 1900.

For further information call on or address C. D. Hendell, ticket agent, Union depot.

Holiday Special.

For the accommodation of Christmas travelers the Erie R. R. will run a special train from No. 1's time on December 26, 28 and January 1 and 2, which leaves Akron at 12:22 p. m.

BORROW MONEY

From us on your own terms, also see us about that INSURANCE you have expiring soon.

P. P. BOCK & CO.

Moving Vans, Teaming Coal, and Transferring. "Fill your coal bins now and avoid the rush." Office, Cor. Cherry and Canal sts. Tel. 257.

A. D. ELLIS

Iron and Brass Castings

For Every Purpose.

A. Adamson, Exchange and Water Streets.

The Dixon Transfer Co.

Coal, Transfer and Livery

Packing, moving and storing of goods. Coaches, coupes and carriages for funerals, weddings, parties and callings.

123 and 125 Carroll st. Tel. No. 306

You Must Eat to Live

Why not come where you get the BEST MEALS at all hours?

ATLANTIC GARDEN

European Restaurant

DETLING BROS., Props.

200-202 E. Market st.

CLAMS & LOBSTERS

THE BANK CAFE.

The Finest Restaurant in Akron.

MEALS SERVED AT ALL HOURS.

FINE IMPORTED AND DOMESTIC

Wet Goods & Oysters

Water Central Savings Bank.

JOHN KOEBER, Prop.

BLOOD POISON

Primary, Secondary or Tertiary Blood Poison Permanently Cured. You can be treated at home under same guaranty. If you have taken mercury, iodine, potassium, and still have aches and pains, Mucus Patches in mouth, Sore Throat, Pimples, Copper Colored Spots, Eruptions on part of the body, Hair or Eyebrows falling out, write CHAS. HENRY & CO., 128 Masonic Temple, Chicago, Ill., for proof of cures. Capital \$100,000. We solicit the most obstinate cases. We have cured the worst cases in 10 to 15 days. 100-page Book Free.

FOR SALE

Don't wait nor waste your money in building, when you can buy that brand new South Main st. dwelling, just at end of pavement for about \$250 less than it would cost you to build.

J.